

REMARKS

Claims 16, 17, 61, 62, 65-68, 77-80, 85 and 86 have been cancelled, obviating the rejections. Claims 19-21, 60, 63, 64, 69-76, 81-84, 87 and 88 are pending. The pending claims have been allowed. (Office Action Summary at Item 5, and Office Action at page 7.)

Information Disclosure Statements

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for indicating that the information provided in all Information Disclosure Statements filed in this application has been considered.

Drawings

The Examiner states that the drawing informalities noted in the Office Action dated December 19, 2002 must be corrected in order to avoid abandonment. (Office Action at page 2.) The Office Action dated December 19, 2002 included a Form PTO 948, Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review. The Notice indicates that drawings filed on June 29, 2000, the filing date of the application, were reviewed by the Draftsperson. A Transmittal of Proposed Drawing Corrections and New Formal Drawings, with Formal Drawings (sheets 1/4-4/4) was filed on September 14, 2000. Thus, it appears that the Formal Drawings have not been reviewed by the Draftsperson.

On May 19, 2004, the undersigned discussed the drawings in this application with Examiner Andres by telephone. The Examiner indicated that the Formal Drawings were in the PTO file, and that she would request that the Formal Drawings be reviewed by a Draftsperson. The Examiner also indicated that this Amendment would be fully responsive to the Office Action if it contained this reference to the Formal Drawings filed on September 14, 2000. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for discussing this issue and requests that the Formal Drawings filed on September 14, 2000 be accepted.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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